

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: PORG, UNGA, GQ, US
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF GUAM

REF: USUN 2146

1. SUMMARY: AT MEETING MAY 31 OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES OF COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) STATEMENTS CONCERNING GUAM WERE MADE BY REPS OF AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN. LATTER RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD MILITARY BASE, PROPERTY RIGHTS OF GUAMANIAN, AND TREATMENT OF ASIAN IMMIGRANTS. DEBATE WILL CONTINUE AT NEXT MEETING, JUNE 2, WHEN INDIA WILL SPEAK AND US WILL MAKE CLOSING STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIA (MORRIS) SPOKE VERY BRIEFLY, COMMENTING FAVORABLY ON "MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE" TOWARD C-24 SHOWN BY US LAST YEAR AND ON US INVITATION FOR COMMITTEE TO SEND VISITING MISSION TO GUAM TO OBSERVE REFERENDUM. HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING VISITING MISSION AND SUGGESTED THAT IN FRAMING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS THE COMMITTEE SHOULD GIVE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO SETTING CLEAR
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PARAMETERS TO GUIDE THE MISSION.

3. SWEDISH REP AHLANDER ALSO WELCOMED US INVITATION FOR VISITING MISSION TO GUAM WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE COMMITTEE'S KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. HE EMPHASIZED THE RIGHT OF THE POPULATION OF ANY DEPENDENT AREA TO FREELY DETERMINE ITS CONSTITU-

TIONAL STATUS AND NOTED THAT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF GUAMANIAN HAD EXPRESSED DESIRE TO CONTINUE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US, ALTHOUGH ONE POLITICAL PARTY ENDORSES INDEPENDENCE. HE CITED DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH NEW CONSTITUTION AND FOUND MANY PROVISIONS PRAISEWORTHY. HE NOTED THE VULNERABILITY OF SMALL TERRITORIES SUCH AS GUAM AND DILEMMA THEY FACE OF COMBINING THEIR WISH TO DECIDE OWN DESTINIES WITH NEED TO CONTINUE AFFILIATION WITH THE ADMINISTERING POWER TO ENSURE MEANS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SURVIVAL.

4. REFERRING TO PAST DISCUSSIONS OF US MILITARY BASE IN GUAM AND UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF 32ND GA RES ON GUAM, AHLANDER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT "ANY POSSIBLE DEBATE GOING ON PUBLICLY IN GUAM ON THE PRESENCE OF THESE MILITARY FACILITIES." HE ALSO ASKED IF THERE WERE "ANY LAWS AND REGULATIONS WHICH PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OF THE NATIVE GUAMANIAN SO THAT THEIR CHANCES TO TAKE PART IN A MEANINGFUL AND FAIR WAY IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY ARE NOT HAMPERED OR IMPAIRED." IN THIS CONNECTION HE CAUTIONED THAT EXTERNAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS BROUGHT WEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BUT COULD ALSO MEAN SUFFOCATION OF CHANCES FOR THE NATIVE POPULATION TO SHARE EQUALLY IN THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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5. THE "SHOCKING PICTURE" PRESENTED IN THE RECENT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON TREATMENT OF ASIAN WORKERS IN GUAM WAS NOTED BY AHLANDER, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT THE "LOFTY PRINCIPLES" LAID DOWN IN THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION MUST APPLY TO ALL WHO LIVE AND WORK IN GUAM. HE WAS PLEASED AT THE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING AN OMBUDSMAN AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTERING POWER FOLLOWING TYPHOON PAMELA. HE NOTED THE NEED, HOWEVER, TO DIVERSIFY GUAM'S ECONOMY TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON FLUCTUATING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

6. MEETING WAS ATTENDED ONLY BY CHAIRMAN (IVORY COAST), TWO ABOVE SPEAKERS, AND REPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. NEITHER OF LATTER SPOKE AND INDIAN REP WHO ARRIVED AS COMMITTEE WAS ABOUT TO ADJOURN AGREED TO DELIVER STATEMENT AT NEXT MEETING. US REP THANKED AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN FOR STATEMENTS AND SAID INFO IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S QUESTIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED AT NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY FOR 10:30 AM JUNE 2. YOUNG

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